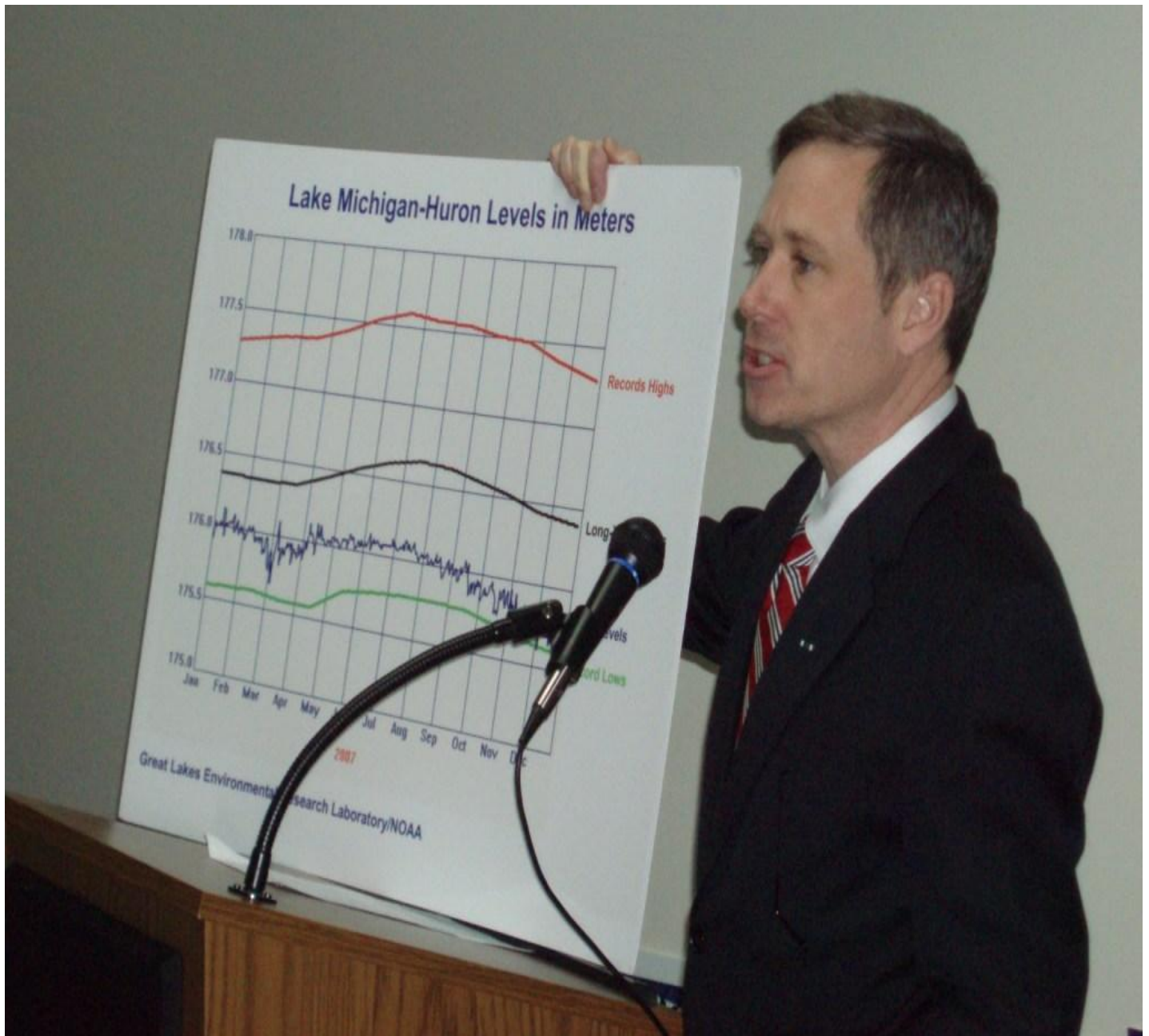


Yesterday, I held a town hall meeting at the Palatine Township Center in Palatine. Approximately 100 people joined us as we discussed protecting the Great Lakes, earmark reform and transportation funding.



Congressman Kirk discusses his efforts to protect Lake Michigan water levels at the town hall

meeting



A full house asks Congressman Kirk questions about legislation in Washington

I also had the opportunity to honor a local 10th District veteran. Buffalo Grove resident Martin

Harry Schwartz served in the finest Navy in the world during World War II, but never received the medals he had earned. My office tracked down the medals for Martin and on Thursday we presented him with the:

- American Campaign Medal
- Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal (w/ four Bronze Stars)
- China Service Medal
- Combat Action Ribbon
- Philippine Liberation Medal (w/ two Bronze Stars)
- Philippine Presidential Unit Citation
- World War II Victory Medal

Martin was born on October 23, 1919 in Chicago. He enlisted in the United States Navy in 1944 during World War II and served on the USS Conway, a Fletcher-class destroyer, as a radarman.

Many people remember the famous line of General MacArthur when he said “I shall return” after US forces pulled out of the Philippines. Martin was part of the fleet group that kept that promise, bringing General MacArthur back to defeat the Japanese in the Philippines.

His destroyer served as a minesweeper, bombarded enemy fortifications and took part in several landing operations in the Pacific. The USS Conway also was the flagship for the forces lifting Chinese troops from Indo-China to Formosa and Manchuria.

After the war, he participated in the minesweeping of the Yellow Sea.

He left the service in 1946 and became an IRS agent. He still keeps in touch with his shipmates to this day.

If you are a veteran or a relative of a veteran who has not received earned medals for past service, please call my office at 847-940-0202. We'll work with the Department of Defense to track down any medals and all corresponding paperwork.





Congressman Kirk presents Martin Schwartz with medals he earned in World War II